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AUDUBON
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NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

FALL 2015

A CLIMATE OF HOPE: Our best bet for birds may be to share them with a younger generation

There aren't a lot of nine year-olds who can define "phenology" or tell you the difference between a habitat specialist and habitat generalist. But in Laurie Solchenberger's diverse 4th and 5th grade classroom on Madison's near-south side, you'll find 18 curious kids who know this—and a lot more—about birds. And these bright Lincoln Elementary students are applying their big bird vocabularies to one of the most significant issues of our time: climate change.

Laurie's classroom is the site of Madison Audubon's innovative climate change education program, a semester-long curriculum funded in part by National Audubon Society. Developed and taught by MAS educator Carolyn Byers, the *Young Ambassadors for Birds in the Face of Climate Change* program brings the big issues surrounding our local birds and habitats to the young people who will see the most severe effects of climate change occur during their lifetimes.

The inspiration for the pilot program struck during a visit by Laurie's class to Goose Pond Sanctuary last fall to collect seed and connect with nature. Carolyn and Laurie met and hatched an ambitious plan to create a semester-long set of lessons that would integrate with the school day and other classroom content while meeting educational standards, making students think critically, and engaging them with the weighty issue of climate change—all through the lens of birds.

With these enthusiastic partners at its heart, the new curriculum was implemented steadily and seamlessly over five months. The kids loved it. It was rare to see students seated and taking notes. Rather, Carolyn used active, hands-on games and activities that taught kids

(See "A climate of hope", p. 2)



Students at Lincoln Elementary participate in a birdy field day at the end of the 2015 school year. Photo by Emily Meier

Our mission is to protect and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife through land acquisition and management, education and advocacy.

A climate of hope

(Continued from p. 1)

about carbon cycling, migration, and habitat loss. Laurie and Carolyn's enthusiasm proved infectious and the kids began to think of everything in the context of birds and our changing planet. They raised over \$100 over three months for the Great Wisconsin Birdathon by passing a penny jar around their snack-time circle. They voluntarily participated in art and writing projects inspired by birds. One student even completed his very own research project—a scientific report on the most common bird species around the school building.

The end of the program was capped off with a day-long field trip to Lake Farm County Park, MAS's Goose Pond Sanctuary, and Schoenberg Marsh. The impact of the program was immediate and deep. Laurie laughs when thinking about one afternoon in her classroom: "Another teacher came running into my room while my kids were outside at recess saying, 'There are 3 of your boys pounding on the door yelling for you to come, saying it's an emergency.' I took off running, fearing the worst, and when I opened the door the boys were yelling and pointing, 'Ms. S.! It's a godwit! On the playground! A godwit!'"

"Trying to get kids actively and genuinely engaged in their own education can be one of the most challenging aspects of teaching, but that is where the real learning happens. When kids care about something, they get excited and curious, which leads to discussion, reading, writing, and sharing," says Laurie. Thanks to her enthusiasm for teaching her class about the natural world, she has been seeing incredible growth in her students through each year, both emotionally and intellectually. "One of my students was very resistant to outdoor learning, and to leaving the building for field trips. Since we knew this, he was extended the opportunity to stay behind during our Birdathon. He exclaimed, 'No way! I'm coming with you!' and had a wonderful day. I have a picture of him that day smiling, and it is one of the only times all school year I ever saw him smile."

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By the end of the year, Laurie's students were such experts on birds and climate change that they invited the rest of the school to participate in a field day to learn through bird-related games. When MAS staff and volunteers tried to step in to help get the field day started, one student smiled and said, "thanks, but we are the teachers today!" Let's hope these kids continue to take charge in the face of the challenges that lie before us all.

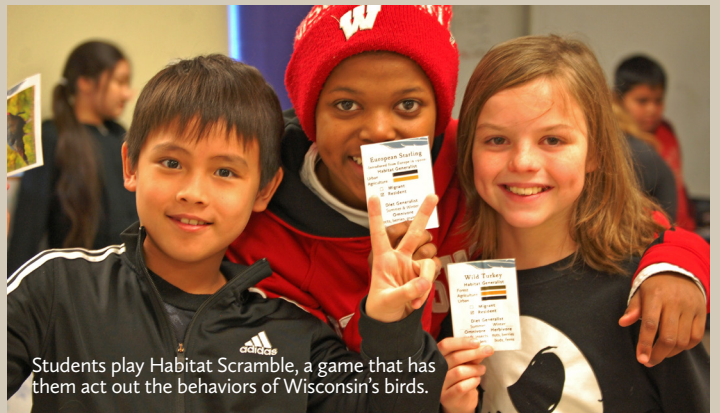
*A newsletter feature can't adequately convey how innovative programs like MAS's climate change curriculum help shape the next generation of environmental stewards – but don't take our word for it. We want YOU to be involved in furthering our mission to share a love for birds and the natural world with local youth. Consider volunteering during one of our education programs, and donate to help continue changing lives, one kid at a time. **Contact our education director, Rebecca Ressler, to get involved now: ressl@madisonaudubon.org***

"Trying to get kids actively and genuinely engaged in their own education can be one of the most challenging aspects of teaching, but that is where the real learning happens. When kids care about something, they get excited and curious, which leads to discussion, reading, writing, and sharing."

Teacher Laurie Solchenberger, on why she incorporates bird and climate change education in her 4th and 5th-grade classroom



Carolyn and a group of proud Lincoln Elementary students celebrate after removing a mountain of garlic mustard at Lake Farm County Park.



Students play Habitat Scramble, a game that has them act out the behaviors of Wisconsin's birds.

- Madison Audubon spent more than 460 hours of contact time with students at Lincoln Elementary
- Kids learned about the science of climate change, the importance of local birds, how our ecosystems are connected, and the roles of humans in the environment
- Students got their hands dirty by pulling invasive species and raising money for the Great Wisconsin Birdathon

Madison Audubon will host a free workshop on August 21 for local teachers to provide fun and effective climate change curriculum and tools to inform and inspire their students. Visit madisonaudubon.org/climate-workshop for more.

SEASONAL SIGHTINGS

Madison Audubon members share their favorite birding moments

Want to share your sightings?

Email them to emily.meier@madisonaudubon.org



“One night after work while driving to check my kestrel boxes, I saw a group of American white pelicans lined up preening and resting on a small pond south of Oregon. It looked like they were preparing to go on stage! I had my camera and got a few shots in the fading light of day. I call this image ‘Send in the Clowns.’”

– Pat Ready

“Three year-old Evelyn Dolfin loves birds, especially the house finch family nesting on her family’s porch in Mount Horeb. Whenever the parents come to feed the chicks, Evie will say ‘I hear the babies!’”

– Evelyn Dolfin,
submitted by her mother, Caitlynn Nemec



“My best bird sighting this year capped off a wonderful day. Dane County had just purchased the Neperud property along the Sugar River between Paoli and Belleville. I could not wait to explore its beautiful landscape: the land features a high line of old oaks, huge patches of trout lilies, sweeping runs of the river, and little springs bubbling out from under the ridge. Sally, my wonderful wife, completed a watercolor of the view while my exploration with a fly rod produced a robust brown trout. As Sally and I were gazing over the property and admiring the ducks, cranes, and geese, a huge, mature bald eagle flew across the river, no more than 60 yards from us. So majestic, so spectacular, and so big!”

– Topf Wells



Painting by Sally Probasco



Conservation photographer Arlene Koziol accompanied Mark and Sue Foote-Martin, Goose Pond Sanctuary managers, and Chuck Pils to Vilas County to photograph spruce grouse.

“It is interesting how specific Spruce Grouse courtship habitat was—coniferous forest, upland Jack Pine stand, closed canopy, no leaves on the bottom branches and an open understory. The Spruce Grouse does not call and one has to listen for only the wing flutter. It was fascinating to look for the bird and read the landscape. Mark, Sue, and Chuck were excellent teachers.”

– Arlene Koziol

Meet the summer flock

Madison Audubon's summer program of paid internships in restoration ecology advances our habitat and education missions simultaneously—big time on both counts. Working in partnership with the UW-Madison Arboretum (at Faville Grove) and with the Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Pheasant Branch Conservancy, and Natural Heritage Land Trust (at Goose Pond and other sites), our hard-working interns spend 40 hours per week for 12 weeks performing critical habitat management while learning the theory and practice of ecological restoration. We have enjoyed an-

other fantastic season working with these impressive young people while they experience the wonders of some of south-central Wisconsin's highest quality natural areas. At a cost of nearly \$6,000 per student, we welcome your contributions to support future conservationist's participation in this incomparable program.


Roger Packard, president
rpackard@uwalumni.com



Leo Roth

University of Wisconsin–Madison, '17
Geography and Environmental Studies

"My parents raised me in rural Wisconsin and showed me many lakes, trails, campgrounds and parks, which gave me an appreciation of the outdoors as a place of mystery and wonder. I would not be an MAS intern without them."



Emily Rose

University of Wisconsin–Madison, '16
Environmental Studies, Human Geography, GIS/Cartography

*Favorite conservation quote: "If you know wilderness in the way that you know love, you would be unwilling to let it go. ... This is the story of our past and it will be the story of our future."
– Terry Tempest Williams*



Robby Kretz

University of Wisconsin–Madison, '16
Landscape Architecture, certificate in Environmental Studies

The most rewarding part of being an intern for Madison Audubon is being with people who care about observing and conserving Wisconsin's biodiversity as much as I do!



Christopher Barry

University of Wisconsin–Madison, '16
Psychology and Environmental Studies, certificate in African Studies

Career goals include the Peace Corps, international conservation work and land management and policy in Arabic-speaking countries.

FAVILLE GROVE



To read more about our interns, visit madisonaudubon.org/restoration-interns

LEFT: The Faville Grove Sanctuary 2015 intern crew
RIGHT: The Prairie Partners team at Goose Pond Sanctuary





Maddie Van Cleve

University of Wisconsin–Madison
M.S., Landscape Architecture

“My thesis work is focused on prairie restoration. My passion for restoration ecology sprang from my love of the outdoors, a Minnesota childhood of horses, hiking, Sigurd Olson, swimming in glacial lakes and mushroom hunting.”



Nathan Kueffer

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, '15
Wildlife Ecology and Biology

“The most rewarding part of being an intern with Madison Audubon is being able to see the impact you’re making over the landscape – even just day-to-day, our work is noticeable!”



Tony del Valle

University of Wisconsin–Madison, '17
Geography and Environmental Studies

Favorite conservation quote: “The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, ‘What good is it?’ If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not.” – Aldo Leopold



Joe Clark

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, '18
Environmental Law Enforcement

*Career goal: Become a Conservation Warden with the Wisconsin DNR
Conservation role model: Teddy Roosevelt*



Roberta Donaldson

University of Wisconsin–Madison, '16
Zoology and Conservation Biology

“What I love about this internship is being outdoors and learning something new every day – as well as knowing that what I’m doing now will make a difference in the future!”



Katya Frank

University of Wisconsin–Platteville, '16
Biology

“The best part of my internship is that I get to learn so many hands-on things I could never learn in a classroom. It is rewarding to be able to take action in the field, and I also love that I can work with experienced professionals and other people who are just as passionate about the environment as I am!”



Tessa Schaub

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, '17
Wildlife Ecology

“My dad inspired my love of nature. He and I planted wildflowers, trees, and vegetable gardens together. He taught me the names of many plants and animals and he loved going on hikes with me.”

Madison Audubon Donors | April–June 2015

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For more ways to give back to birds, visit madisonaudubon.org/donate

Call for nominations

Madison Audubon seeks candidates for your Board of Directors

This fall, the Madison Audubon nominating committee will consider candidates for inclusion on the 2016 ballot for board of directors and would like to hear your suggestions.

If you or someone you know could contribute positively to the oversight and development of the organization and would be willing to serve, please communicate this to the committee.

Call (608) 255-BIRD or send an email to info@madisonaudubon.org with names and qualifications of potential candidates.

RIGHT: While it does don a mask, this male common yellowthroat only steals scenery. *Photo by Arlene Koziol*





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PAGE 8, OR GIVE ONLINE AT
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Madison Audubon Society and National Audubon Society are tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. When you join, you will receive subscriptions to both the Madison Audubon newsletter, published four times per year, and to AUDUBON magazine, published six times per year. (Please allow six to eight weeks to receive your first issue.) Your membership and gifts to Audubon are tax-deductible except for \$7.50 allocated to AUDUBON magazine for a one year membership.

Is your workplace for the birds?

You can support bird conservation and education while you work!

Madison Audubon is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin, a collective of 59 local, grass-roots nonprofit organizations that build social and economic equity and a healthy environment.

Community Shares raises funds for members like Madison Audubon through workplace giving campaigns at over 100 private sector employers in the Greater Madison area. Public sector employees can contribute to Community Shares and its member agencies through their Combined Campaign.

Please consider giving to Community Shares of Wisconsin through your employer's workplace giving campaign. You can easily direct your gift to Madison Audubon Society, or choose to support a number of organizations.

To learn more about Community Shares of Wisconsin, or to start a Community Shares campaign at your workplace, visit communityshares.com or call (608) 256-1066

Thank you for supporting Madison Audubon Society and Community Shares of Wisconsin!

MAS Sanctuaries again prove a haven for rare species

During field surveys this summer, sanctuary staff have discovered robust populations of rare and remarkable species in the prairies of Faville Grove and Goose Pond—evidence that the ecological communities at our sanctuaries are thriving.

At Faville Grove Sanctuary, a recent volunteer effort led by manager David Musolf and land steward Drew Harry revealed that populations of the endangered eastern prairie fringed orchid at both Snapper and Faville Prairies have rebounded after being decimated by severe summer flooding in 2008. To learn more about this delicate and beautiful orchid at Faville Grove, visit madisonaudubon.org/faville-orchids.

Goose Pond's Wood Family Prairie is once again showing signs of significant populations of the fascinating but endangered silphium borer moth, as discovered during an outing with Prairie Partners interns, Goose Pond staff, and volunteers Dorothy Haines and Arlene Koziol. Based on their sampling, we estimate that more than 6,200 caterpillars may have found a home in the Wood Prairie this summer. Further surveys at other Goose Pond locations may reveal even more moths.

The presence of these two species—as well as the presence of the other birds, bugs, and plants that call the land home—are proof that the ongoing efforts to restore the ecological health, diversity and integrity of our sanctuaries is paying off.



UW Arboretum staff watch as Faville Grove Sanctuary manager David Musolf demonstrates how to hand-pollinate an eastern prairie fringed orchid. Photo by Emily Meier

EVENINGS WITH AUDUBON

Join us! Our great program series has a brand new name and an exciting fall lineup of expert speakers.

THE PLIGHT OF THE MONARCH

The rapid decline of monarch butterfly populations in the last decade has caught the attention of nature lovers and scientists across the continent. Cindy and Kirby Pringle's documentary "The Plight of the Monarch" examines the life cycle of the monarch and how we can work to conserve this species. Join the filmmakers for an informative presentation and screening of the documentary.

SEPTEMBER 15 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Capitol Lakes Main Ballroom
333 W. Main Street | Madison, WI

THE INFAMOUS, AWFUL, NO-GOOD, VILLAINOUS, AND LAZY COWBIRD—AND WHY YOU SHOULD LIKE IT

MAS executive director Matt Reetz shares insights into the surprising nature of North America's most vilified bird.

OCTOBER 20 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Capitol Lakes Main Ballroom
333 W. Main Street | Madison, WI

NATURAL WONDERS AND TRIBULATIONS OF AFRICA'S ALBERTINE RIFT

John Bates is the associate curator of birds at Chicago's renowned Field Museum. Join us for this special evening of stories as John speaks about biodiversity, science, and people in a warzone in sub-Saharan African.

NOVEMBER 17 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery
330 N Orchard Street | Madison, WI



A natural pair: a Monarch caterpillar feeds on common milkweed at Faville Grove Sanctuary

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